



State of Connecticut

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Testimony

**H.B No. 5542 An Act Concerning The Recommendations Of The Connecticut Emergency Medical Services
Primary Service Area Task Force
Public Health Committee
March 19th, 2014**

Chairman Senator Geratana, Chairwoman Representative Johnson, Ranking Member Senator Welch, Ranking Member Representative Srinivasan and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 5542 An Act Concerning the Public Health Committee, The Recommendations of the Connecticut Emergency Medical Services Primary Service Area Task Force.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony concerning HB 5542: An Act Concerning Recommendations of the Connecticut Emergency Medical Services Primary Service Area Task Force.

I would also like to highlight my support of "Recommendation Five (5)" of the Task Force's Final Report. This recommendation essentially states that municipalities shall have the right to propose a local EMS Plan for consideration to DPH for the alternative provision of primary service area responder accountabilities. As stated in the Task Force's Recommendation we must "Strike a balance between empowering municipalities and protecting statewide system stability." We do not have that now statewide and this is evident from the testimony that the task force has heard.

This Recommendation would not guarantee changes to EMS providers; it would merely allow municipalities the opportunity to have their case heard by DPH and to allow more sovereignty to their communities on an issue that is vitally important.

By implementing Recommendation Five (5) it would allow municipal officials to adjust the level of care that is most beneficial to their boroughs not only to be more competitive, but to provide the level of services that their residents require and deserve.

The Borough of Naugatuck has testified before the task force and is anticipated to testify before this committee. I implore you to reflect on our Borough's situation, which may not be the majority situation, but it is a reality that demonstrates that we must have changes. I will continue to make myself available to answer any questions you may have. Thank you again for this opportunity and for the great work and hours that has been dedicated by the task force.

Rosa C. Rebimbas
State Representative, 70th District